

*Funds will help implement programs to increase public safety*□

*August 28, 2012*

*Stockton, Calif.* – Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Stockton) announced that the Contra Costa County Probation Department will receive \$750,000 through the Department of Justice's Second Chance Reentry program. The money will provide pre- and post-release services for parolees, aiding in successful reintegration, increased public safety, and decreased recidivism.

"Improving public safety in our neighborhoods has always been a priority of mine, and I was happy to help Contra Costa County get this critical funding. It will go a long way to not only making our streets safer, but helping decrease the amount of crime in the months and years to come," said Congressman McNerney.

The funds will be administered through the Contra Costa Reentry Agenda to Empower and Ensure Safety (CREATES) initiative. The multi-disciplinary team ultimately seeks to reduce recidivism by 50% in Contra Costa County. Probation case managers will provide screenings and counseling pre-release, as well as assessing participants every three months after their release.

Supervisor Mary J. Piepho, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, praised the collaborative effort that resulted in the grant being awarded to the County. "Protecting the public is our highest priority, and leaders from all of our public safety departments as well as community partners jointly created the vision for helping offenders transition back into the community without committing new crimes," Piepho said.